

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04835 132205Z

70

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIEP-03 CEA-02 CG-00

AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

EPA-04 INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 AF-10 EA-11

NEA-14 TRSE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /278 W

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R 132140Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9799

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: CHILEAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE VLCC METALUX (METULA)

REF: (A) CARACAS 7705; (B) SANTIAGO 4826

1. SUMMARY: WE SUGGEST USG COORDINATE WITH TANKER OWNERS FEDERATION RE ANTI-POLLUTION ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT USEFULLY BE GIVEN TO CHILEANS IN CONNECTION WITH GROUNDING OF SUPERTANKER.

2. FOLLOWING SHLAUDEMAN-POPPER TELCON, AMBASSADOR APPROACHED FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY COLLADOS TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE CHILEANS MIGHT NEED IN DEALING WITH PROBLEM OF GROUNDED SUPERTANKER VLCC METALUX.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04835 132205Z

3. COLLADOS STATED WHAT CHILEANS HAD IN MIND WAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DECONTAMINATION OF POLLUTED AREAS. SAID FONOFF WAS COMMUNICATING WITH CHILEAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON WHICH IN TURN WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH USG AUTHORITIES WITH MORE SPECIFIC INFO.

4. AT SAME TIME OUR NAVY CONTACTS TELL US THAT INITIATIVE FOR CHILEAN LOS DELEGATION APPROACH TO US DEL CARACAS ORIGINATED WITH CHILEAN NAVY AND NOT FONOFF. OBJECTIVE WAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER, AS SEEN BY NAVY, SOME IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL BENEFIT COULD BE EXTRACTED FROM TALENT GATHERED AT CARACAS. NAVY STATES THAT FOR TIME BEING OIL POLLUTION IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY LARGE TO BE OF MAJOR CONCERN, AND THAT IT IS HOPED APPROACHING RESCUE TUG AND BRITISH EXPERTS (REFTEL B) CAN COPE WITH SITUATION.

5. CHILEAN NAVY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT METALUX IS COVERED UNDER INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION, LTD. (TOVALOP) AGREEMENT, AND, ACCORDINGLY, CHILEANS MAY RECOVER EXPENSES INCURRED IN CLEANUP OPERATION, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF AGREEMENT (WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE AVAILABLE HERE). TOVALOP HAS INFORMED CHILEAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT THAT J. WARDLEY SMITH, TECHNICAL MANAGER OF THE FEDERATION, LEAVES LONDON AUGUST 13 TO OFFER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH POLLUTION.

6. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT USG COORDINATE WITH TOVALOP IN LONDON RE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING ASSISTANCE IN LIGHT OF WHATEVER REPORT SMITH MAKES REGARDING SITUATION. MEANWHILE, WE WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH CHILEAN NVAL AUTHORITIES, WHO SAY THAT IN EVENT OF SEVERE STORM AND BREAKUP OF VESSEL MUCH MORE SERIOUS POLLUTION PROBLEM WOULD EXIST.

POPPER

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